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**Title:**

Press release: Trading with the People's Republic of China

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The South Australian Government's South East Asia Trade Representative, Mr. John MacDonald, has been invited to visit the People's Republic of China in October, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, announced today.

Mr. Dunstan described the invitation as a trading breakthrough of immense and long term importance to South Australia.

He said it is the first time an officer of an Australian Government had been invited to undertake official discussions with the Government Trading Corporations of the People's Republic of China.

Only private Australian businessmen had been invited before.

"Until now the policy of the Government of the People's Republic of China would not deal with officials of either State or Federal Governments.

"This was because the Federal Government did not diplomatically recognise China.

"It appears this policy has changed in respect of South Australia".

"The Autumn Trade Fair is a market place where a large proportion, even as much as 50 per cent, of the Chinese Nation's trade is negotiated.

"Mr. MacDonald's visit has the purpose of contacting the State Trading Corporations to investigate mutual trade potential and developments, and to undertake specific trading enquiries on behalf of the South Australian Government and South Australian companies."

Mr. Dunstan said that the invitation indicated that his discussions in London last year with the Commercial Counsellor of the People's Republic of China were bearing fruit.

He said that in London he had discussed the establishment of effective trading between South Australia and the People's Republic.

A number of specific areas had been mentioned.

They included seed grains, shipbuilding, air-cushioned vehicles and specialised agricultural machinery.

Cultural contacts were also discussed, including the possibility of Chinese participation in the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

There was an exchange of information on shipping and freight rates.